

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (canceled)
4. (canceled)
5. (canceled)
6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) A method for screening an agent for promoting insulin production and/or an agent for increasing insulin content, comprising the steps of: bringing ~~[[the]]~~ a cell ~~according to claim 5~~ expressing a polypeptide selected from:

(a) a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4;

(b) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4,

and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;

(c) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence in which 1 to 15 amino acids are deleted, substituted, and/or inserted in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation; and

(d) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having an 80% or greater homology with that of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;

or a cell membrane thereof into contact with a substance to be tested, and

analyzing whether or not the polypeptide ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 4~~ is

activated.

8. (currently amended) A process for manufacturing a pharmaceutical composition for promoting insulin production and/or increasing insulin content, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

bringing ~~[[the]]~~ a cell according to claim 5 expressing a polypeptide selected from:

(a) a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:

2 or 4;

(b) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;

(c) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence in which 1 to 15 amino acids are deleted, substituted, and/or inserted in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation; and

(d) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having an 80% or greater homology with that of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;

or a cell membrane thereof into contact with a substance to be tested,

analyzing whether or not the polypeptide ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 4~~ is activated, and

preparing a medicament containing the substance.

9. (currently amended) An agent for promoting insulin production and/or ~~an~~ agent for increasing insulin content, comprising as an active ingredient a substance that

activates activating the polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 4 a polypeptide selected from:

(a) a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4;

(b) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4,

and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;

(c) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence in which 1 to 15 amino acids are deleted, substituted, and/or inserted in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation; and

(d) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having an 80% or greater homology with that of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation.

10. (currently amended)            A method for promoting insulin production and/or increasing insulin content, comprising administering to a subject a substance that activates activating the polypeptide according to any one of claims 1 to 4 a polypeptide selected from:

(a) a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4;

(b) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4,

and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;

(c) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence in which 1 to 15 amino acids are deleted, substituted, and/or inserted in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation; and

(d) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having an 80% or greater homology with that of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting

insulin production by activation.

11. (canceled)